REMARKS

Claims 23-27, 30-37, 39-41, and 43-50 are pending in this application. This response amends claims 41, 43, 49, and 50. Claims 51 and 52 are new. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the application.

REJECTIONS UNDER § 103

The pending Office Action applies *Yamaguchi et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,400,392) as a primary reference; and *Matsumoto et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,524,198), *Sankaranarayan et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,799,208), and *Atick et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,111,517) as secondary references against the claims.

Base independent claim 43 recites: "sending the degraded image to the user's system via a network." Independent claims 49 and 50 recite: "receiving the degraded image on the user's system via a network." Thus, the inventions of claims 43, 49, and 50 require transmission of the degraded image to the user's system via a network (e.g., the Internet). By transmitting degraded images instead of fully intact images, network bandwidth requirements are conserved.

None of the cited references disclose this feature of the claimed inventions. *Yamaguchi* describes a video information adjusting apparatus for transmitting an image from a camera. For example, in FIG. 5, images from a camera at a transmitting terminal are sent to a receiving terminal.[1] At the receiving terminal, the user can view the images through windows. In order to conserve computer resources locally at the receiving terminal, the resolution or brightness of the received images can be reduced if the user is inactive.[2] Thus, in contrast to the claimed inventions, these images are sent to the receiving terminal in an intact condition, and then, the

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[1] *Yamaguchi*, at col. 6, lns. 11-14.

[2] *Yamaguchi*, at col. 16, lns. 30-33.

images are degraded locally at the receiving terminal. *Yamaguchi* does not disclose the transmission of degraded images via a network.

Matsumoto describes a character processing method with the editing of text in windows. Where there are multiple windows open, the processing scheme can be adapted to sacrifice the image quality of the inactive window.[3] However, unlike the claimed inventions, the degraded images are not transmitted to the user's system via a network. Instead, like *Yamaguchi*, the images are degraded locally on the user's system.

Sankaranarayan describes a resource management architecture in which the "output of the application is thus degraded in quality to a reduced-size video image on the monitor."[4] However, unlike the claimed inventions, the degraded images are not transmitted to the user's system va a network. Instead, like *Yamaguchi* and *Matsumoto*, the images are degraded locally on the user's system. *Atick* does not disclose image degradation at all. Thus, neither *Matsumoto*, nor *Sankaranarayan*, nor *Atick* cure the deficiencies of *Yamaguchi*.

Applicant further submits that there is no reason to modify the video apparatus of *Yamaguchi* (the primary reference) to transmit degraded images via a network based on a determination of user inactivity. *Yamaguchi* is concerned with conserving computer resources locally at the receiving terminal when the receiving user is inactive. *Yamaguchi* does not indicate that the conservation of bandwidth in the transmission channels during periods of user inactivity is a problem that needs to be addressed. Therefore, there is no reason why a person of ordinary skill in the art would modify *Yamaguchi* to transmit degraded images via a network based on a determination of user inactivity.

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[3] *Matsumoto*, at col. 6, lns. 54-65.

[4] *Sankaranarayan*, at col. 17, lns. 61-64.

CONCLUSION

Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant(s)' representative to discuss any issue that would expedite allowance of this application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge all required fees, fees under § 1.17, or all required extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600 (Kenyon & Kenyon LLP).

Respectfully submitted,

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